

# Rock Art Eccentrics Part II

Incorporation of Natural Rock Elements Into Rock Art Images

**Roger Cook**

# INTRODUCTION

**Eccentric:** something that is unusual, peculiar or odd

**Rock Art Eccentric:** image that is unusual or peculiar due to incorporation of natural rock elements such as:

- holes
- cavities
- cracks
- corners
- edges
- protrusions
- etc.



# INTRODUCTION

- Majority of photos are from NM, some from UT, TX & AZ
- Volcanic rock and sandstone are predominant surfaces
- These images grab your attention and allow you to kind of get into the mind of the creators
- Emotional connection with peoples of the past
- Using rock contours can give images a partial 3D effect
- Rated R: some slides contains nudity
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‘Consultants from the Pueblo of Acoma describe petroglyphs as ‘living entities.’ For ritual practitioners, rock art sites are portals to power, petition, and presence of Holy beings, ancestors, or both. Indigenous consultants often point out that incorporation of natural rock features, the flow of water, growth of lichen and other ‘natural’ interactions attest to the significance of place and setting for them.’

Kelley Hays-Gilpin, *We are all connected: Rock Art Ontologies in the Southwestern US*, 2019

‘Depictions of kachinas, numbering in the thousands throughout the Rio Grande valley, are a sort of permanent investment in attracting the rain spirits. These images grant power to the land. If an image is pleasing to the supernatural being represented, it will attract that being’s presence.’

Polly Schaafsma, *Human Images and Blurring Boundaries. The Pueblo Body in Cosmological Contest: Rock Art, Murals and Ceremonial Figures*, 2018





UT



NM



# Faces, Masks, Kachinas

**'Pueblo kachina masks are the most diagnostic element of the Rio Grande rock art style.** Throughout they vary from simple to complex in detail.... Masks carved under the open sky on prominent landscape locations such as hilltops, knolls and intrusive volcanic features may well have served as petitions to the spirits of rain clouds attracted by their images.....rock art empowers the landscape and defines places where communication with powerful supernaturals may take place because they are attracted to their images.'

Polly Schaafsma, *Beyond the Village: Arroyo Hondo, Rock Art, and Religious Transformations in Classic Period Pueblos*, internet publication





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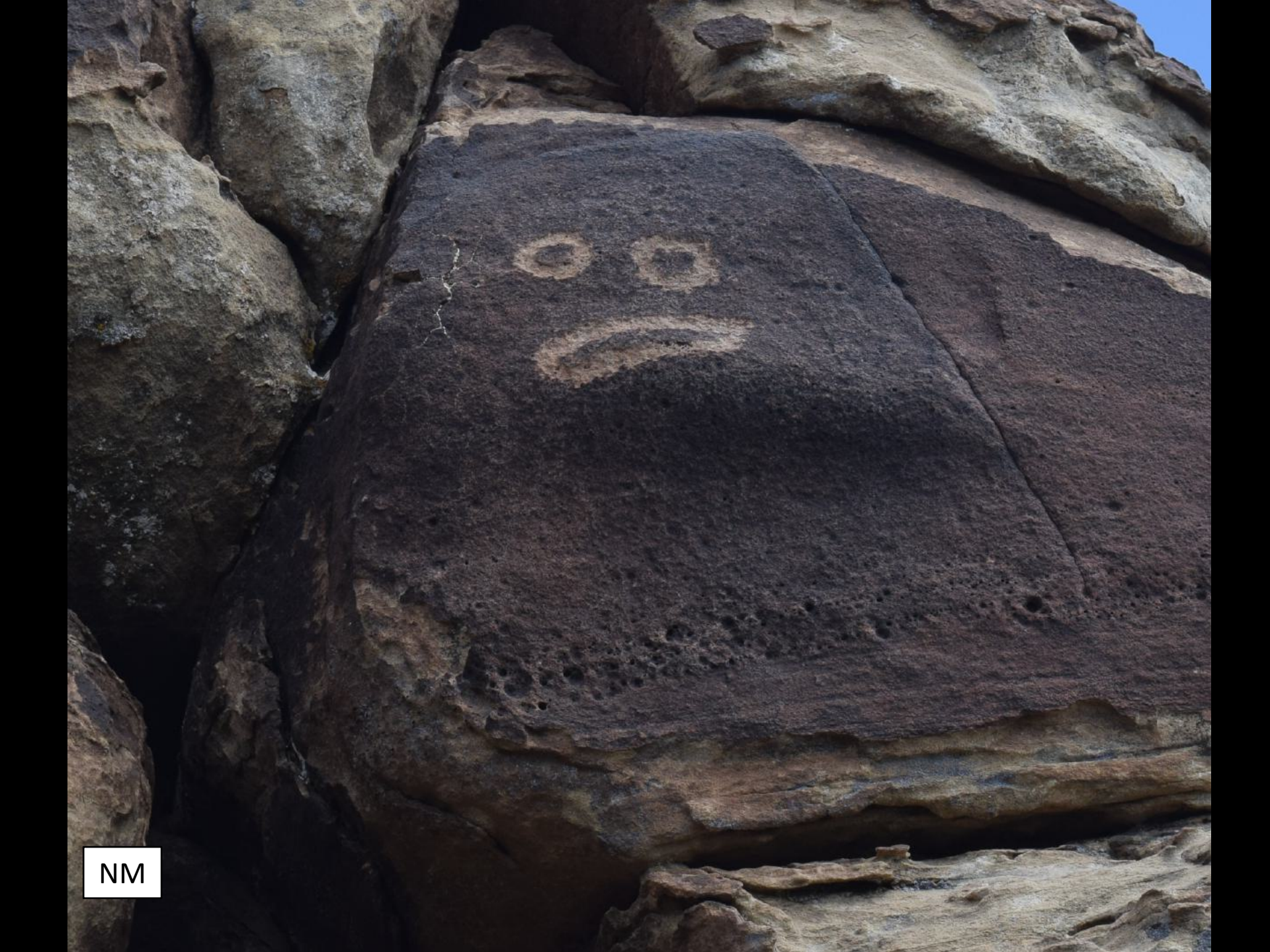
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# Corner Masks

- Common in Rio Grande & Jornado Mogollon rock art styles
- Range from quite simple to very detailed
- Although mentioned in the literature, I have found no documented explanation for the corner masks
- Seen as living entities that are watching the landscape.
- One eye is always on each side of the corner, giving them a 180° view of the landscape, which often is very expansive.
- They are looking for anything that would be noteworthy to report back to the elders. Perhaps watching for friends, enemies or rain clouds.





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New Mexico  
Photo credit: Marglyph



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# Full-Bodied Anthropomorphs



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F  
V  
M  
P





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Photo credit:  
Tim Sweeney



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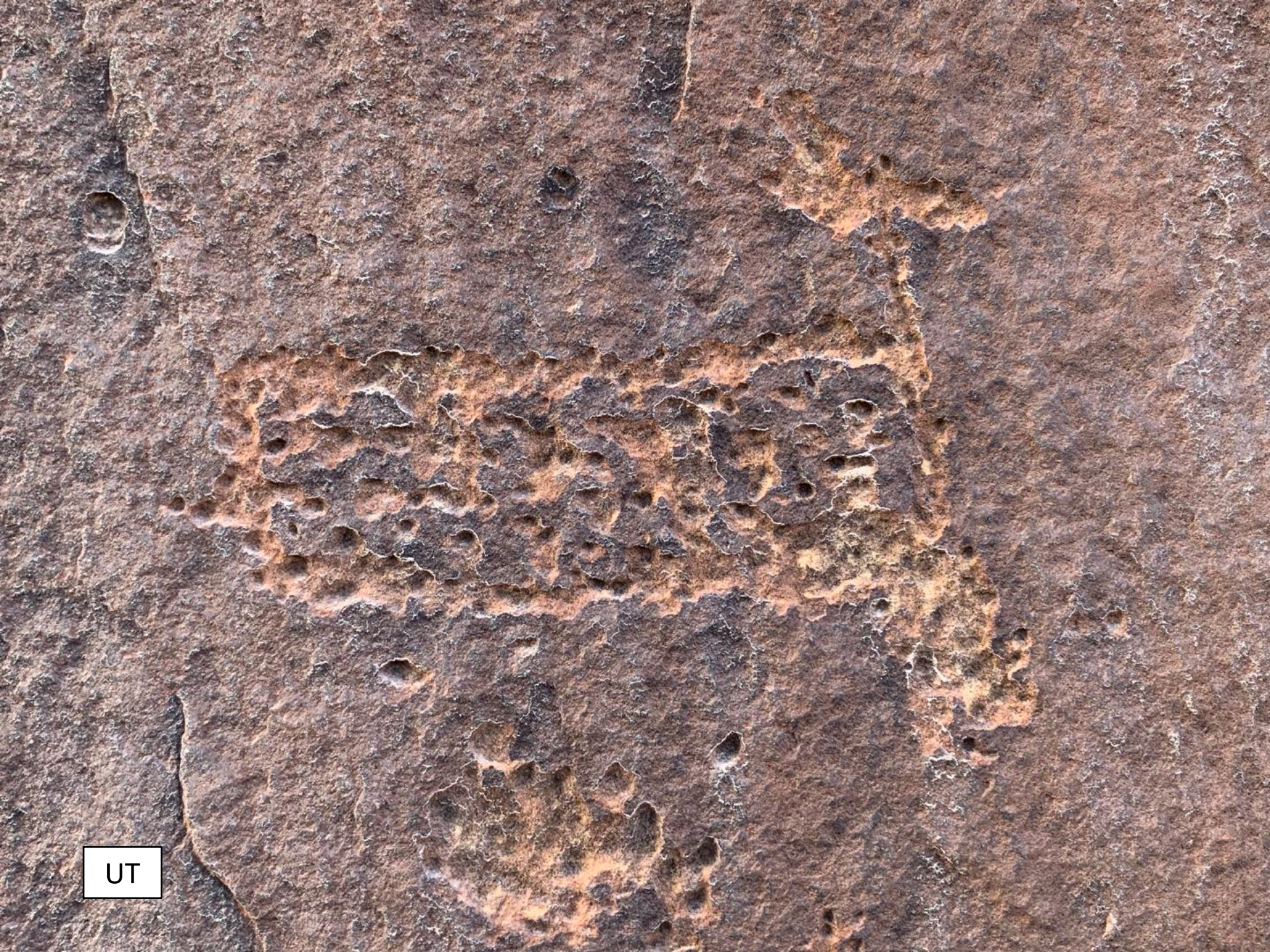
# Animals



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Geometrics  
&  
Other



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# A Special Place



New Mexico



New Mexico







New Mexico



New Mexico



New Mexico



New Mexico



New Mexico



A few favorites  
&  
Summary



New Mexico  
Photo credit: Dr. David Love



NM

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